

REMARKS

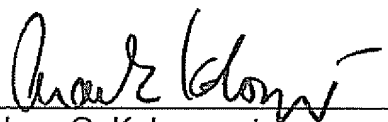
This is in response to the Office Action of May 8, 2006. In the Office Action, Claims 8-9 and 11-12 and 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,690,672 to Veltrup. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Veltrup.

Claim 34 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

By this Amendment, Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 34. Specifically, Claim 8 now recites positioning the distal end of the first passageway over a desired section of heart tissue.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of such claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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